

THE ADVOCATE

SEPTEMBER 17, 2003

San Diego Education Association / California Teachers Association / National Education Association
10393 San Diego Mission Road, Suite #100 • San Diego, CA 92108 • (619) 283-4411 • <http://www.sdea.net>

NEA Announces 2003 Human & Civil Rights Award Winners

Washington, DC - One dozen educators, public servants, and activists who have tirelessly fought to promote social justice and dignity for all were honored by more than 2,000 educators at the National Education Association's 37th annual Human and Civil Rights Awards dinner on July 2 in New Orleans.

Representative Bob Filner, San Diego, received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Award. Congressman Bob Filner showed a deep commitment to civil rights early on in life. First organizing his high school classmates to join the original Youth Civil Rights March on Washington in 1957, Filner then spent two months in a Mississippi penitentiary as one of the 300 or so "Freedom Riders," who traveled to Alabama and Mississippi to fight for integration in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Filner studied at the feet of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., worked for civil rights champions

Eugene McCarthy and Hubert H. Humphrey, and won his first Congressional seat in 1993, after a term on the SDUSD School Board 1989-1993.

In his ten years in Congress, Filner has championed causes large and small. He fought to restore equity to Filipino World War II veterans who were drafted into service and then stripped of their veteran benefits at the conclusion of the war. Filner's commitment to civil



rights is evident through his many efforts to open dialogues between Jewish and African-American students in his district and in his fierce battles with insurance companies to prohibit them from dropping policies with black churches due to fear of arson.

San Diego's former NEA director Tim Jenkins, now retired from Walker Elementary, made the nomination.



**Congressman Bob Filner
Receives NEA Award**